

City of San Diego Development Services Department Plan Review Division Permit Center • 1222 First Avenue • MS-401 San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 236-6250

Building Newsletter 2-1

Definition of Grade

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes 1994 Uniform Building Code: Chapter 2 Revision Date: January 1996 bnl 04-01/02-01

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I. Definition of Grade

Section 208 of the Uniform Building Code defines grade as "the lowest point of elevation of the finished surface of the ground, paving or sidewalk within the area between the building and the property line or, when the property line is more than 5 feet from the building, between the building and a line 5 feet from the building and a line 5 feet from the building."

II. Grade After Retaining Wall Installation

Where finish grade is established by the installation of a retaining wall on the property line, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- A. When the property line is located 5 feet or less from the building, see Figure 1.
- B. When the property line is located more than 5 feet from the building, see Figure 2.
- C. When the building is cantilevered and the property line is located 5 feet or less from the cantilevered portion, see Figure 3.
- D. When the building is cantilevered and the property line is located more than 5 feet from the cantilevered portion, see Figure 4.







